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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2006

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Report Highlights:

Export prices continued to increase in response to further strengthening of the Thai baht.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Apr. 17):

| Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.) | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|------|
| | Exporter Observations | | | | | | | Period Avg. | |
| | #1 | #2 | #3 | #4 | #5 | #6 | #7 | CUR. | PRV. |
| F WR 100 B | 475 | 435 | 463 | 456 | 490 | 452 | - | 467 | 453 |
| WR 100 B | 310 | 310 | 312 | 308 | 312 | 307 | 305 | 309 | 308 |
| PB 5% | 295 | 295 | 301 | 302 | 305 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 298 |
| WR 5% | 307 | 305 | 305 | 302 | 306 | 299 | 300 | 303 | 302 |
| WR 10% | 297 | 297 | 303 | 299 | 302 | 295 | 295 | 298 | 297 |
| WR 15% | 289 | 292 | 290 | 297 | 290 | 283 | 290 | 290 | 289 |
| WR 25% | 270 | 272 | 270 | 285 | 274 | 266 | 270 | 272 | 271 |
| WR 35% | 268 | - | - | 282 | 272 | 264 | 265 | 270 | 270 |
| A 1 SUP | 222 | 218 | 223 | 220 | 224 | 216 | 215 | 220 | 217 |
| A 1 SPEC | 220 | 216 | 221 | 217 | 222 | - | 213 | 218 | 216 |
| Source: Average actual prices received from exporters | | | | | | | | | |

Market Tone

Despite steady domestic prices, export prices for all grades of rice continued to increase due to the strengthening of the Thai baht to 37.8 baht/U.S.\$, as compared to around 38 baht/U.S.\$ in the previous week. The fluctuation of the Thai baht created uncertainties for the rice exporters. Also, the current high domestic prices reportedly limited Thai quotations to compete with other suppliers. Domestic prices will likely remain high in the first half of the year, as the Government still has no plan to release the stocks, amounting to the record 5 million tons, because the new Government has not been set up yet. In addition, despite less aggressive second crop intervention program (Mar. 16 – Jul. 31, 2006), the Government bought up to 299,656 tons of paddy (as of Apr. 17, 2006), around half of total second paddy bought in the previous year's second crop intervention program.

The following are the reported rice exports (as is basis):

| WEEK ENDING | QUANTITY | 4-WK AVG | YEAR TO DATE | YEAR AGO |
|----------------|----------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| | (MT) | (MT) | (TMT) | (TMT) |
| FEB 26 | 99,974 | 93,552 | 738 | 977 |
| MAR 5 | 89,876 | 99,327 | 828 | 1,049 |
| MAR 12 | 72,466 | 87,267 | 900 | 1,136 |
| MAR 19 | 75,974 | 84,573 | 976 | 1,234 |
| MAR 26 | 85,814 | 81,032 | 1,062 | 1,322 |
| APR 2 | 81,681 | 78,984 | 1,144 | 1,444 |
| APR 9 | 76,558 | 80,007 | 1,220 | 1,527 |
| APR 16 | 66,847 | 77,725 | 1,287 | 1,598 |

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Apr. 10-16, 2006 totaled 66,847 tons, down 9,711 tons from the previous week's total, and down 10,878 tons from the four-week moving average of 77,725 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Apr. 16, 2006 totaled 1,287,244 tons, as compared with 1,597,906 tons in the previous year.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1 – Mar. 31, 2006, amounted to 1,794,280 tons, down 6 percent from 1,913,139 tons in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Mar. 27-31, Apr. 3-7, and Apr. 10-14, 2006 are as follows:

| Movement (MT) | Mar. 27-31 | Apr. 3-7 | Apr. 10-14 (tentative) |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| weekly sales | 68,650 | 222,795 | 41,433 |
| 4 week sum | 522,789 | 587,878 | 528,394 |
| 4 week mov. avg. | 130,697 | 146,970 | 132,099 |
| Total weekly sales | 1,497,033 | 1,719,828 | 1,761,261 |

End of Report.